



# Formation Devotional

*March 17, 2020 Evening*

*Forming Worship, Life, and Ministry Together at Christ Covenant Church*

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*Come into this time just as you are, like a child who runs to his father's arms. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## **Call to Prayer**

By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life. (Psalm 42:8)

## **Opening Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 235)

## **Prayer of Examine**

Turn your attention to Christ who is present with you now. With him, review the ordinary events and emotions of your day with gratitude.

1. Where did you move with or feel close to Jesus today?
2. Where did you resist or feel far from Jesus today?
3. Where is Jesus leading you tomorrow? Ask for joy as you follow him.

## **Praying the Psalms**

*Prayerfully read the psalm back to God through faith in Jesus Christ.*

### **Psalm 110**

#### **Sit at My Right Hand**

*A Psalm of David.*

The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool.”

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<sup>2</sup>The LORD sends forth from Zion

your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

<sup>3</sup>Your people will offer themselves freely

on the day of your power,

in holy garments;

from the womb of the morning,

the dew of your youth will be yours.

<sup>4</sup>The LORD has sworn

and will not change his mind,

“You are a priest forever

after the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>5</sup>The Lord is at your right hand;

he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

<sup>6</sup>He will execute judgment among the nations,

filling them with corpses;

he will shatter chiefs

over the wide earth.

<sup>7</sup>He will drink from the brook by the way;

therefore he will lift up his head.

## Old Testament Reading

Exodus tells the story of the enslavement of God’s people by the Egyptians. God raises up a deliverer named Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, but the Egyptians resist, and God answers with the ten plagues. Exodus also contains the Ten Commandments and instructions for a tent where God would meet His people. This was called the tent of Moses, or the tabernacle.

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*As you read and reflect on this passage, prayerfully consider how God might be revealing himself to you this evening.*

## **Exodus 5**

### **Making Bricks Without Straw**

Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’”<sup>2</sup> But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.”<sup>3</sup> Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”<sup>4</sup> But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens.”<sup>5</sup> And Pharaoh said, “Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!”<sup>6</sup> The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen,<sup>7</sup> “You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves.<sup>8</sup> But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, ‘Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.’<sup>9</sup> Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words.”

<sup>10</sup> So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, “Thus says Pharaoh, ‘I will not give you straw.<sup>11</sup> Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.’”<sup>12</sup> So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.<sup>13</sup> The taskmasters were urgent, saying, “Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw.”<sup>14</sup> And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, “Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?”

<sup>15</sup> Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, “Why do you treat your servants like this?<sup>16</sup> No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, ‘Make bricks!’ And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people.”<sup>17</sup> But he said, “You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’<sup>18</sup> Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks.”<sup>19</sup> The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, “You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day.”<sup>20</sup> They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh;<sup>21</sup> and they said to them, “The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, “O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me?<sup>23</sup> For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all.”

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## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Gospel Identity

- Thank God for being a God we can depend on; praise him for all the ways he has shown you his love and faithfulness today.
- Thank God that because he loved you first, you can love and serve the people in your life. Thank Him for these people.
- Thank God for his promise to make all things new.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. (BCP 134)

### Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

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*Wonder what your next step in spiritual formation is? Consider getting involved in a Growth Group.*

*For a handy guide to the devotional elements and an archive of past issues, visit [ccotc.org/devotional](http://ccotc.org/devotional).*